

1-29-2010

# The Hilltop 1-29-2010

Hilltop Staff

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## WEATHER

33  
24  
Tomorrow:  
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# THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 93, NO.69

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Established  
1924

Friday, January 29, 2010

## Friday's Notebook

### NATION & WORLD

TURN INSIDE TO FIND OUT HOW HIGH DIVORCE RATES IN AMERICA ARE AFFECTING THE YOUTH.

### SPORTS

THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS ABOUT TIGER WOODS RETURNING TO THE GOLF COURSE. SEE IF THEY'RE TRUE.

### EDITORIAL

HU HAS A NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR. READ TODAY'S EDITORIAL TO FIND OUT OUR PERSPECTIVE.

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## WHUR Hosts Radio-Thon for Haitian Relief

LAUREN GASPARD  
Staff Writer

WHUR 96.3 has been hosting a week-long radiothon called "Hands on Haiti", to raise money for the Howard University Haiti Relief Fund. WHUR 830 AM played a major role in the week-long initiative, mandating all news reporters and anchors that work for the station to volunteer time by raising awareness and money in the D.C. community.

The Office of Residence Life at Howard University also encouraged students to volunteer by offering RSVP points toward on-campus housing to those who participate.

The local station has broadcasted live all week outside of the John H. Johnson School of Communications, standing in the streets to be seen by those that commute through Bryant Street daily.

The initiative has raised nearly \$8,000.

Mr. Howard University Melech Thomas and radio personality Harold Fisher broadcasted live, encouraging the community to stay engaged in helping the victims who have been affected by the disaster.

"I think that what WHUR is doing is amazing," said Victoria Fortune, sophomore broadcast journalism major, and coordinator of the "Hands for Haiti" benefit concert last Thursday.

"It is a great tactic to raise money and awareness. Even if individuals did not donate, the fact that the people were willing to stand outside in the cold shows the dedication of the students and the community willing to take a stand."



Photo courtesy of behanapress.com

WHUR's week-long radio-thon raised thousands of dollars to benefit the victims affected by the earthquake in Haiti.



Political analyst Donna Brazile spoke to HU students yesterday in the Blackburn Digital Auditorium.

## Brazile Speaks to Students, Shows her Love for HU

TAHIRAH HAIRSTON  
Campus Editor

Standing astute in a royal blue blazer with youthful gray hair carrying a cloak of meek confidence, veteran political analyst Donna Brazile demanded the Howard student body to take charge and make change speaking at the third annual Charles W. Harris Lecture in Armour J. Blackburn Auditorium.

"I love this institution," she said. "When I went to campaign for Martin Luther King Day, your institution was the first to join us, the first to send out letters to other HBCUs, and the first to come to march with us, and I am here to recruit you for another cause," said Brazile.

Brazile first made her encounter with the Mecca when she moved to the District after college and began advocating in 1983 to make Martin Luther King's birthday recognized as a national holiday.

"Thought I didn't attend this institution, this Mecca, I know of your history, your journey, and your future," Brazile said.

Service was the cause Brazile came to recruit for reminding students that although African Americans have made large accomplishments and opened many doors the job is not yet finished.

She talked about Martin Luther King and what his duties would be now if he were still alive - if Dr. King was still alive

he would march for the issues affecting the community, she said.

"He would have been glad of the accomplishments we made but he would have reminded us of the sense of urgency and how we needed to get back to work because the work has yet to be finished," Brazile said.

Marching and advocating would have been the plans of Dr. King and she expressed that students, as African American youth, needed to do the same.

"Every generation must respond to its calling and create its bond with the community, whether it's filling the gap at a soup kitchen or working at a homeless shelter," she said.

## Boys and Girls Club Hit Hard by Economy

RILEY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Longtime after-school youth development program, Boys and Girls Club of America, and its local affiliates have been facing financial troubles for quite some time. Since then, cases all across the United States have been surfacing regarding lack of funds, low membership and a little personnel.

"With the economy being the way it is - families struggling - it really is tough to provide the resources we usually provide," said Darius Stanton, vice-president of the Boys and Girls Club (BGC) of Metropolitan Baltimore. Stanton said that for the resources BGC provides, finding the right amount of donations and support has been more than difficult. "That free membership gets them free facilities, homework help, quality staff and childcare for free." Many clubs have reported an increase in demand—likely a direct result of more parents working long hours through hard economic times.

From Washington to Massachusetts and Illinois, BGC's have been hit hard and now more than ever are in search of new and long-lasting resources and practices. The John M. Barry Boys and Girls Club in Newton, Mass. has recently undergone federal and state cuts amounting to more than \$200,000 with membership rising 20.5 percent, according to the Boston Globe. Club officials say that serving so many kids on such limited resources will be their biggest challenge.

Rayvon Williams, a junior finance major, said that he still has fond memories of when he attended the Mt. Rainier BGC in Maryland. "I had my first basketball game and football game there. That's terrible, because boys and girls clubs gives you something positive to do," Williams said that this is where many kids experience their first glimpses of creativity.

Stanton shares the same concern. He says that the BGC must innovate the manner in which they serve youth. In September of 2008, Stanton, along with many BGC affiliates, spearheaded a partnership with the Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center, a juvenile detention center where they would serve attendees in an effort to curb the local violence problem. In recent years, the justice center has been widely criticized for its lack of impact on the community and control of the youth. However, Stanton says there has been a significant decrease in the amount of violent incidents. Stanton said that situations such as these are the reason Boys and Girls Club were made.

Currently, Stanton is preparing for an African-American Male Teen conference in Baltimore, in an effort to prove that organizations such as the Boys and Girls clubs are still important resources of the communities.

"We go where most organizations probably won't go and stay and that's why our mission serves those who need us most," he said.

## HU's Tennis Teams Gear up for Spring Competition

BY RYAN FOSTER  
Editorials & Perspectives Editor

"My main goal for the tennis teams is to win," said Larry Strickland, head tennis coach at Howard. "I've never been a second rate kind of guy. The goal is to be number one, or at least as close to it as you can get."

For his 25th year of coaching Howard University tennis, Coach Strickland is looking forward to a victorious season of both the men's and women's tennis teams.

"I would describe last year as a rebuilding process," said Strickland. "We had seven seniors on the women's team graduate two years ago, which left us with a pretty large void to fill."

After such a large loss, the teams have been training since the first week of school to ensure success in their performance season, which started in September and ended in late October, and for their upcoming spring season.

During fall's performance season, players mostly worked on

the tactical aspects of the game. This spring however, they will move on to actually engaging in team scoring and individual matches.

Based on their fall performance season, both teams were recently listed as second in the MEAC pre-season poll, simply meaning that the rest of the conference anticipates they will rank second overall for the upcoming season.

This national recognition comes with high expectations for both teams to succeed.

"Seating is what others think of you. The result is what you think of yourself. Both of my teams are in a very true sense, student athletes," Coach Strickland explained.

"This is based on both academic and athletic success. Over half of the ladies team holds a GPA over a 3.5, and the men are held to a similar standard."

Coach and athletes alike are looking forward to a successful season, with vast improvements from last year's, as well as some of the perks that come along with

being a student athlete.

"We had a mediocre season last year," men's team captain and junior TV production major Christopher Brown said. "We have a couple new guys with us this season that we didn't have last season, and I expect a high level of success and achievement."

This young team's captain, featuring mostly freshman and sophomores, all have academic-related goals in mind for the men's team this season.

> See TENNIS, page 3



# The Effect of Divorce on Academic Success

*With the steadily rising rate of single-parent homes, many wonder if divorce is a factor in how well students perform*

BY BRITTANY K. JACKSON  
Contributing Writer

In a society where more than 51 percent of marriages are failing, and single-parent homes are continuously on the rise, the effect on the success of students from these distinct backgrounds, as opposed to students with parents who are married, may differ significantly.

According to several studies, the differences in the success of students are presented psychologically and financially.

Students with married parents tend to have a more stable support system, which is reinforced financially. In most married homes, there are, ideally, two steady incomes coming into the house which contributes to the level of financial stability in the home.

According to Bankrate.com, the world's leading personal finance advisory Web site, divorce is a \$28 billion per year industry, and is steadily on the rise. This can be attributed to the average cost of a divorce in America, which has peaked at \$20,000 in the last year.

On the contrary, students from single-parent, divorced homes experience a variant level of stress academically, due to financial and

psychological pressures weighing outside of the classroom.

According to the United States Census Bureau, more than 20 percent of the American population has experienced a divorce. Sophomore advertising major Nia Groce is a product of divorced parents, and noted that her parents' divorce did not negatively impact her level of academic success since she was young when it occurred.

"For me, achieving my academic goals was a matter of separating my parents' divorce from the values I obtained from my parents individually and my personal goal to succeed."

Mark Desrivieres, a senior biology major stated, "The separation between single or divorced family homes and homes with both parents is an illusion." He said that you have to define success in accordance to what you make your reality, and that the most successful people do what they are passionate about.

Although Desrivieres' parents, who have been married for 23 years, were able to support him financially and otherwise, he believes that regardless of who is guiding you, it is important to find yourself in the process.

Also noted by the Census, in 2007, the number of single-parent homes in America reached 13.6 percent, with more than 22 million of the children involved in those situations being under the age of 21.

Kyosha Johnson, a senior fashion merchandising major comes from a single-parent home, and stated, "A student's success is dependent on the choices you make as an individual and the expectations you set for yourself." Johnson said that when your family isn't your main source of support, people reach out to the community, which is what motivated Johnson to strive for academic success, despite financial differences.

According to NewsOne, 48 percent of the nation is married. "It's easier, one less thing you have to be conscious of when two people are focused on you," said Randall Jones, a senior advertising major. Jones believes that as part of a family whose parents are married, the values and rules remain consistent, but that as long as the nurturing remains consistent to the child, there should be no difference in success academically.

As a result, the differences in students with parents who are mar-

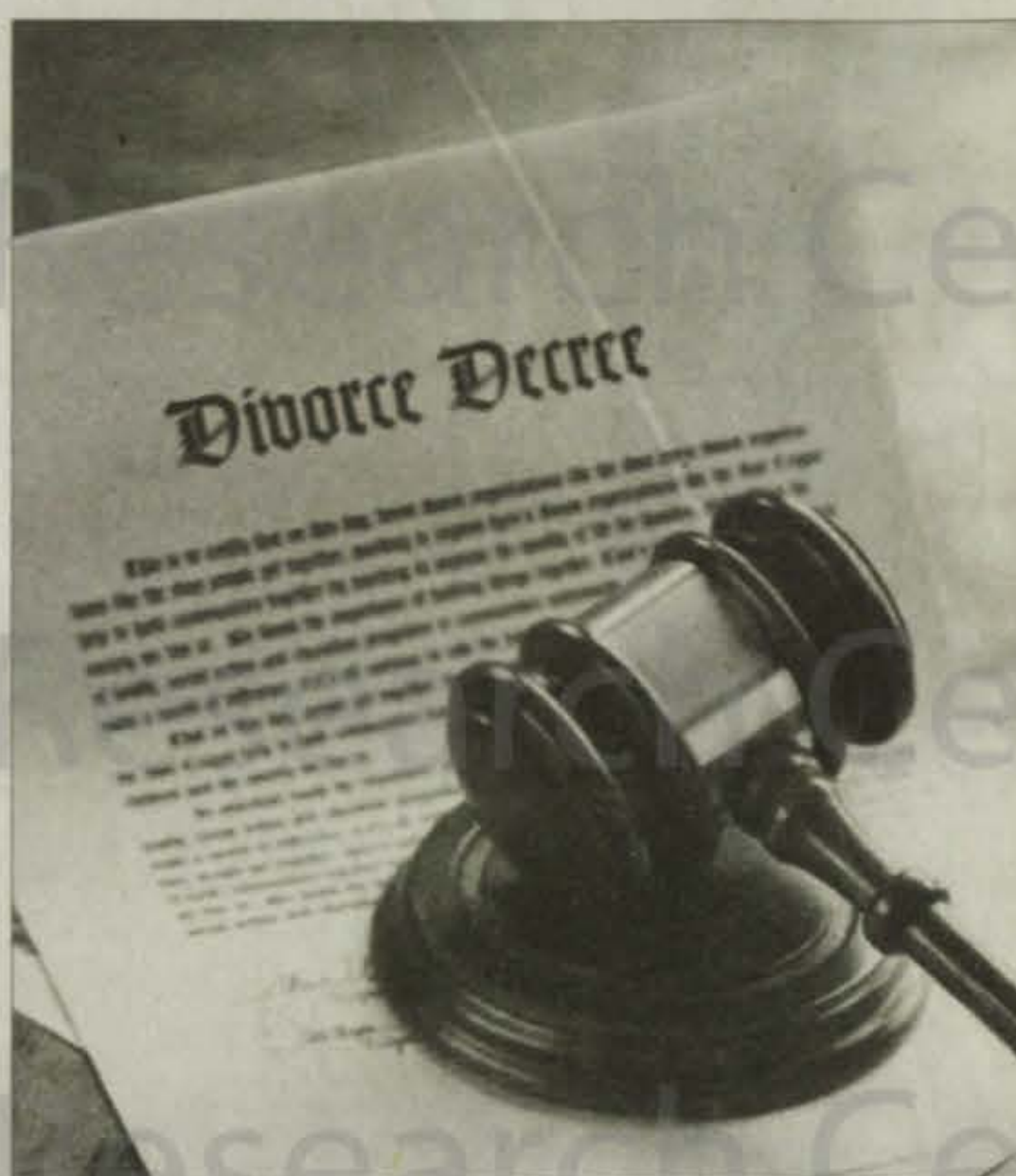


Photo Courtesy of www.marylandlawyer.net

With the average U.S. divorce costing \$20,000 in legal and other fees, the divorce industry is worth an estimated \$28 billion per year.

ried as opposed to students from single parent and divorced homes is based on interpretation. Their suc-

cess, however, is measured according to personal expectation and exposure.

## Study Sheds New Light On Teenage Pregnancy

BY Le'DIA J. SMITH  
Staff Writer

According to newly released data by U.S. reproductive health think tank Guttmacher Institute, the U.S. teen pregnancy rate has risen since 2006, taking a reverse turn from its decline for more than a decade.

The twenty-five paged report showed that 7 percent of women between the ages of 15 and 19—about 72 women for every 1,000—were pregnant in 2006, increasing the rate by 3 percent from 2005. This new and most detailed data shows a significant increase in 26 states.

Women between the ages of 18 and 19 accounted for most of the increase, the data confirmed.

Researchers say that the data provides documentation to what experts have suspected for several years based on the trends in teens' contraceptive use.

"After more than a decade of progress, this reversal is deeply troubling," said Heather Boonstra, Guttmacher Institute senior public policy associate, in a news release by the Institute.

"Fortunately, the heyday of this failed experiment has come to an end with the enactment of a new teen pregnancy prevention initiative that ensures that programs will be age-appropriate, medically accurate and, most importantly,

based on research demonstrating their effectiveness," she added.

Fewer black teenage girls became pregnant, but rates among that of blacks and Hispanics were still considerably higher than those of white teens. In 2005, both black and Hispanic teens had a pregnancy rate of 12 percent, down from 22 percent and 16 percent, respectively, and white teens had a pregnancy rate of about 4.4 percent, down from 8.7 percent, the report added.

"Becoming pregnant as a teenager is now becoming more of a norm in society," said Brittany White, a junior legal communications major.

"I don't blame society for the rise of teenage pregnancies, but I place it solely on the teenagers. There are many preventative methods, including sources of entertainment that show the risks and hardships that come with teenage pregnancies, but they continue to ignore it," White added.

The report also showed that there has been a 1 percent rise in the rate of abortions. Teenage abortion rates were the highest in New York, New Jersey, Nevada, Delaware and Connecticut and more than half of teenage pregnancies ended in abortion in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

According to 2005 data, New Mexico had the highest rate of teenage pregnancy with 9 percent, followed by Nevada, Arizona, Texas and Mississippi.

"In general, states with the largest numbers of teenagers had the greatest number of teenage pregnancies," the report said. This includes California, Texas, New York, Florida and Illinois. However, California has been the most successful state in decreasing their teen pregnancy rates, as it has declined by 54 percent. Hawaii and New Hampshire follow California with a decrease of 49 percent and 47 percent respectively.

Junior marketing major Katherine Wallace was equipped with pregnancy prevention health education courses in high school in her hometown of Hawaii, and said that they are more effective than abstinence-only education.

"Abstinence-only education isn't really efficient because if younger people do not know how to access the various preventative methods, they're not going to use them," Wallace said.

"We learned that abstinence is the most effective birth control, but we also had people from different clinics come and speak about services, including pregnancy tests, and products, such as condoms. We were well equipped with the information."

Abstinence-only programs received about \$1.3 billion of federal funds since the late 1990s, yet in the Obama administration's 2010 budget, federal funds have been shifted toward pregnancy prevention education, eliminating the

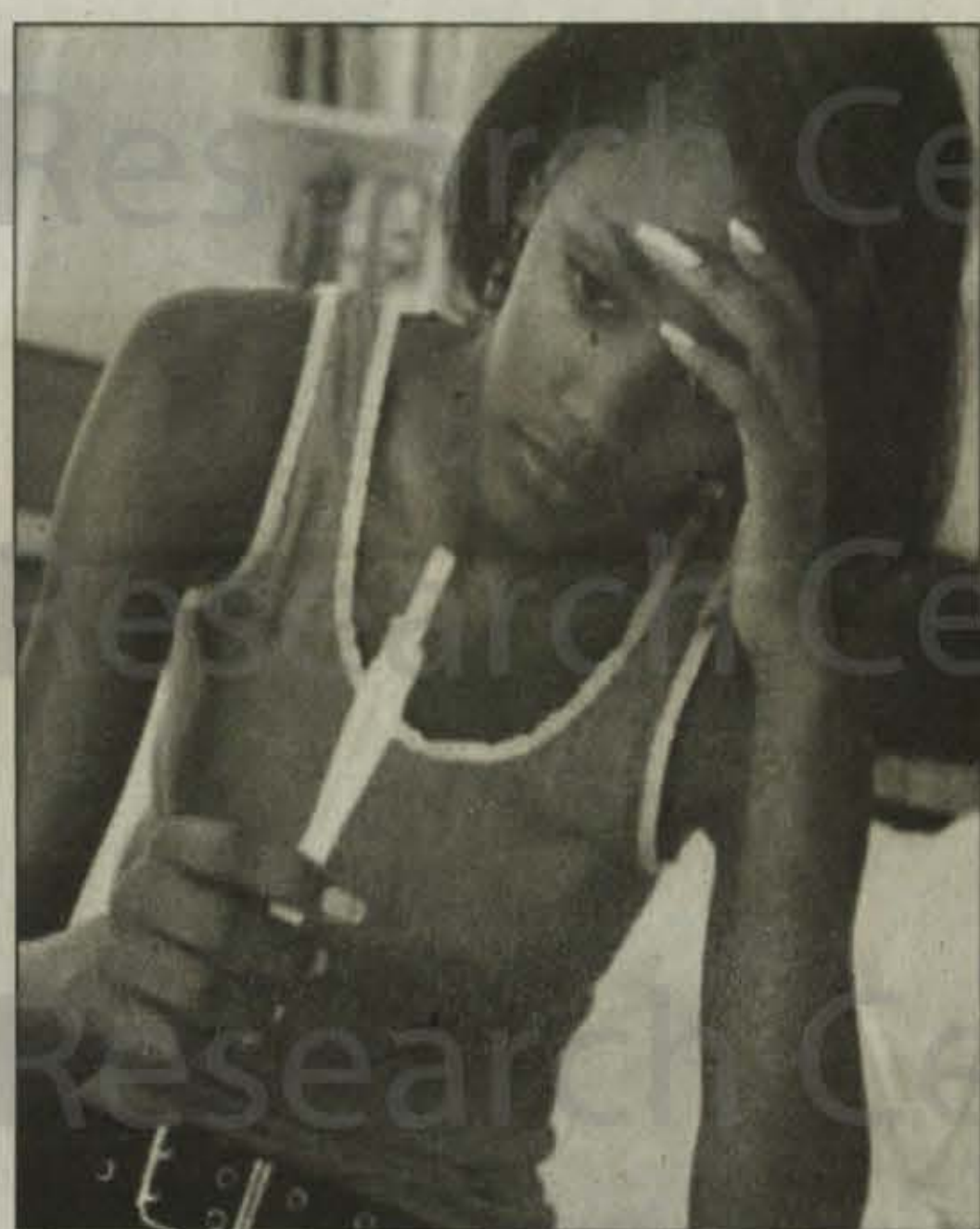


Photo Courtesy of The Sidly Blog

Teenage pregnancies have been growing at an alarming rate in the United States, which begs the question, "Do sex education programs work?"

spending for abstinence-only programs.

The report added: "It is too soon to tell whether this reversal is simply a short-term fluctuation, a

more lasting stabilization or the beginning of a longer-term increase."

## FRIDAY FOLLIES



This illustration demonstrates the widespread belief that the Supreme Court's recent decision to overturn prior legislation that limited corporations on how much money they were allowed to donate in political elections.

Where's the funny?

The illustration says that, essentially, democracy is dead once businesses are allowed to donate what they choose to donate to political campaigns. Believing that corporations will be able to place whoever they want to in office, simply because they have the freedom to spend as much money as they want to get their candidate of choice into office.

—Compiled by Marquis H. Barnett, Nation & World Editor

Find something funny? Submit it for next week's "Friday Folly" to HilltopNW@Gmail.com



# Men, Women's Tennis Team Set For Season

Continued from FRONT, TENNIS

"This season we want to move forward farther in the conference, and to have the men's team achieve Academic All American, which requires the entire team to have a 3.3 GPA or higher," Brown said.

According to Coach Strickland, tennis is a sport that has virtually no down time, and requires a tremendous amount of dedication, especially at the college level.

Training and matches often push into classes and exam time, players were even required to run approximately five to seven miles on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at one point.

With such intense schedules, players look forward to going away for matches.

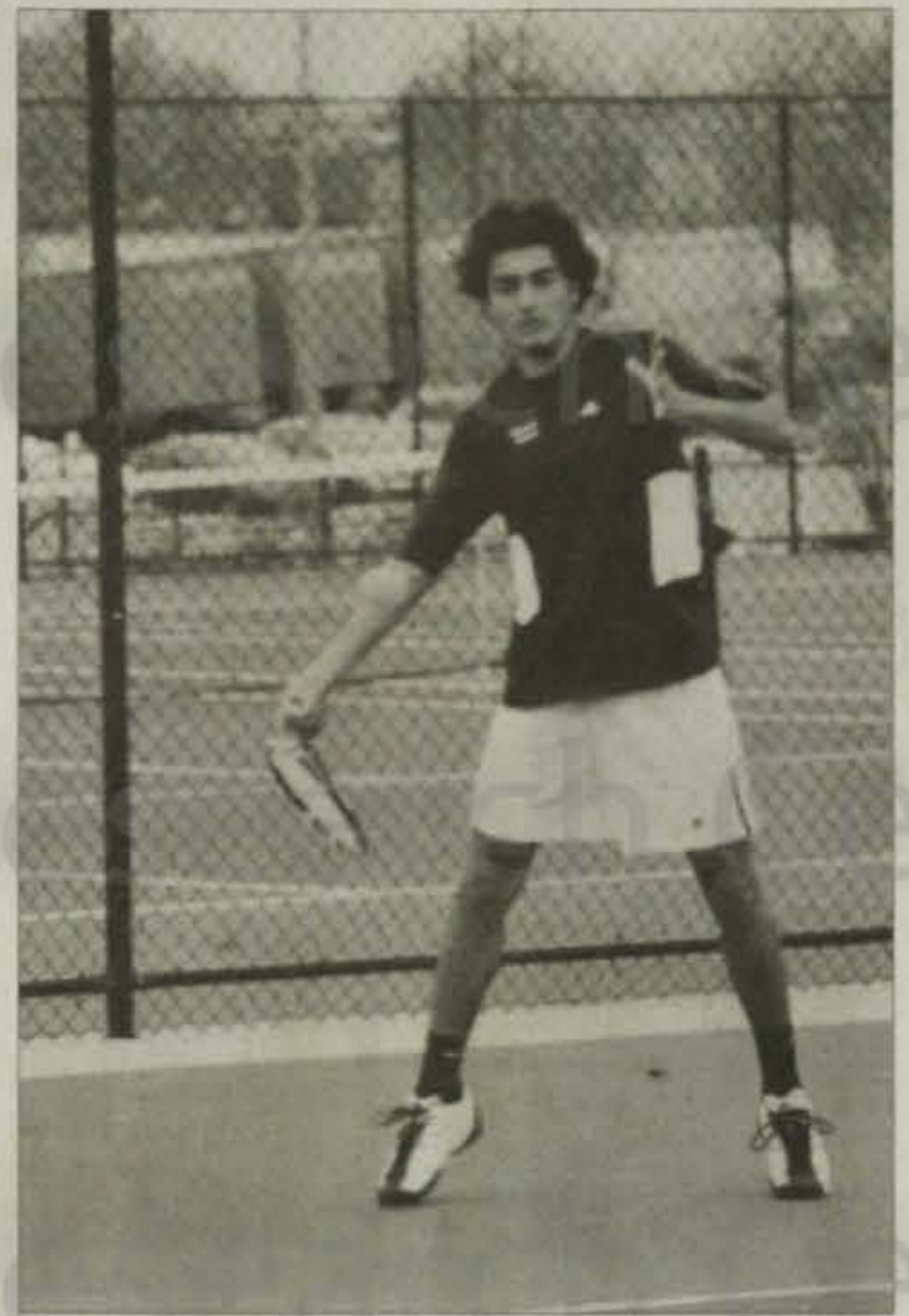
"Something I'm really looking forward to most this season is the traveling," said Ashley Moore, a sophomore public relations major on the women's team.

"We really work hard a practice a lot, so to be able to get out on the road and play against new competition is the best part," she continued.

Despite a player-described "lackluster" season last year, the team definitely has aspirations to improve, hopefully with the support of other Howard students, faculty and staff.

## 2010 HU Tennis Schedule

- February 12 at Navy
- February 13 at NJIT
- February 20 vs. Mount St. Mary's
- March 9 vs. Towson
- March 11 vs. UMBC
- March 13 vs. St. John's
- March 16 at Virginia Beach Tournament
- March 26 vs. Southern
- March 27 vs. Morgan State
- March 28 vs. George Washington



The women's tennis season is set to begin Feb. 12 while the men begin this Sunday at the University of Maryland at 4 p.m.

# Tiger Not Out of the Woods Yet After Turmoil

BY TERRICKA JOHNSON  
Staff Writer

Though more than a two have passed since the alleged sexual partners of renowned professional golfer Tiger Woods, surfaced, the rubble still remains as many wonder will the golden child of golf be able to recover from this experience.

Pearis Carr, a sophomore psychology major said, "I feel like even though he did cheat and he definitely did some things that he had no business doing that brought him to the situation he is in now, he also has the opportunity to turn it around."

On Nov. 25, 2009, Woods was involved in a car accident while he was driving away from his home. The incident, which lead to even more media speculation and inquiry proved to open up a can of worms for Woods.

Michael Hamilton, a sophomore telecommunications management major said, "Initially, I didn't think it was a big deal. The media definitely made it into one though. People cheat on their spouses all the time."

"I don't mean to condone it, but I don't think that the media should make such a big deal out of it," finished Hamilton.

In the days following that incident, it was revealed that Woods

had apparently engaged in a two-and-a-half year affair with waitress Jamie Grubbs, who had reported her affair with Woods to *Us Weekly*.

Hamilton said, "I think with athletes and entertainers, it is expected that these kind of things will happen. You have to be faithful, but a lot of times people take advantage of the amount of time they spend on the roads and away from home. It happens often I'm sure."

Snowballing into later events, recorded and saved voice mails along with text messages from Woods to Grubbs became property of the media and were broadcast and printed for the public to see and scrutinize.

Lauren McEwen, a sophomore print journalism major stated, "When I first heard about it I wasn't shocked because athletes usually have a reputation for infidelity because of traveling around and have so many women accessible to them, but I was disappointed in the way the media and people reacted towards it."

Soon after the incident, Woods' sponsorship deals with AT&T and Accenture were cut. AT&T, which has sponsored many of Woods auxiliary events, retains the deal held with the Tiger Woods Foundation, which focuses on children.

"When it is all said and done,

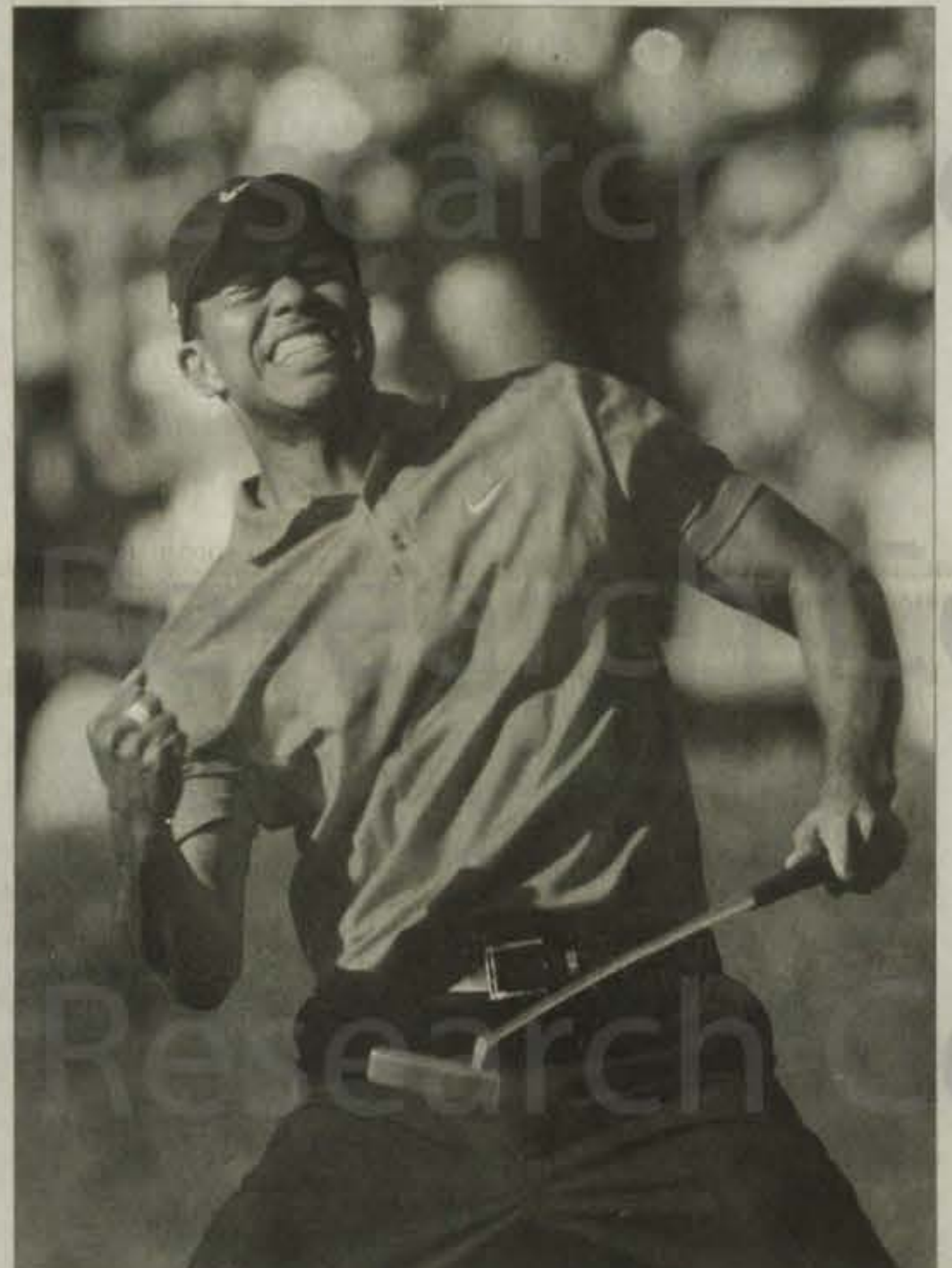
he is still going to be playing golf. Many athletes have cheated like Kobe [Bryant] and Shaquille [O'Neal] and they are doing just fine now. People will begin to move on after a while," said Carr.

General Motors Co. also recently ended their deal with Woods in which he would be able to obtain several loaner vehicles from the automotive company. The deal was originally set to end on Dec. 31, 2010.

"The saying that 'there's no such thing as bad publicity' holds true in this situation. He's going to bounce back. There may be some who don't want him to, but eventually he will come back around," said Hamilton.

Electronic Arts, holder of the EA Sports brand, is continuing steadfast in their collaboration with Woods on the upcoming project Tiger Woods PGA Tour.

Carr stated, "I think that it might take a little while, but I really think he is going to come back. Some people may not have respect for him for some of the things he has done, but he will recover nonetheless."



Rumors have been circulating about Tiger Woods possibly returning to action soon, while golf is seeing a decrease in popularity.

**HAVE YOU SEEN A STORY ON ESPN  
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## Sports Trivia!

Who was the first African-American quarterback to compete in the SuperBowl with the Denver Broncos?

Search the Hilltop for the answer!

## TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY

January 29, 1989

Largest NBA crowd in the league's history (61,938). Boston Celtics vs. Detroit Pistons



# Introducing The Hilltop

## Melech Thomas- "The Preacher"



words have led him on his way to becoming one of the most influential preachers, let alone Howardite.

**On Melech:** "Melech is the truest example of what a Howard man should be. His demonstrated commitment to everything he attaches his name to exemplifies servant leadership, student leadership, and Howard leadership." - Andrew Jones

## Andrew Jones- "The Renegade"



Student politics. Student leadership. Student organizations. Life. No matter what the topic is, senior Andrew Jones never holds his tongue. He forces students to think. With heavy involvement in student government, he expressed his opinions to the student body way before his column in *The Hilltop*, Moment of Clarity.

**On Andrew:** "He is one of the few students who has chosen to pave his own path and not get caught up in the Howard machine. His leadership is not wrapped around personality, but it's about ethicacy, it's about being as effective as possible. Andrew has left a blueprint for leaders that are not caught up in personality, but are dedicated to service." - Melech Thomas

## Aryn Davis - "The Sweetheart"

Aryn Davis has the personality and spirit of a leader. Sophomore political science major Kimberly Wafer looks to Aryn Davis to provide her daily "pick-me-up." Wafer works with Davis in the Chapel Assistants organization and said Davis's spirit and personality are amicable. Whatever it is that Davis needs done and whenever, others are willing to do it because of the type of person she is. Davis has a very encouraging nature, Wafer said, and always extends words of encouragements when they are needed the most. Davis is the type of student others look up to, admire, and aspire to become. As the appointed president of the Chapel Assistants, Davis yields authority on campus and in religious life.



## Tiffany Smith - "The Fighter"



When the School of Architecture got broken into last semester, College of Engineering, Architecture, and Computer Sciences Vice President Tiffeny Smith didn't take it lightly. Instead of leaving the problem for Campus Police and administration to deal with she used her role in leadership as a way to educate and reach out to students. She wanted to ensure to the best of her ability that the problems, which affected the CEACS students resources, wouldn't happen again under her term as VP and hopefully not in the future. With her fighting spirit and urgent nature, Smith began to hold forums about the events that occurred in the Architecture building to bring awareness to students and advocate for ways to prevent this from happening to that building or any of the building in the College of Engineering, Architecture, and Computer Sciences again.

## Dustin Baker - "The Honest"



fact that he is the role model for others to be open with the ones around them whether it be about sexuality or religion. He serves as an example of continuing to succeed by staying honest with the people who he influences.

Graduate student Dustin Baker is not afraid to express himself through the words that he speaks or anything else he wants people to know about him. As the first openly homosexual graduate seminarian at the Howard University School of Divinity. His influence comes from the

## Raolat Abdulai - "The Dreamer"



with the help of her fellow classmates and teachers, but also on those in the surrounding area.

**On Raolat:** "She was really innovative and inspirational - you don't meet many people like that. She drives me to be better and do my best, especially with the clinic. She's inspired a lot of people in the medical school to help with the community." - Silvia Geshva

She had a dream. With the launch of Howard University Freedman's Clinic, third year Howard University medical student Raolat Abdulai's dream came true. Providing free medical care and non-medical care, such as social services and health education once a week to people in the D.C. community during times of economic turmoil, Abdulai not only made an impact on the Howard community

## Jae Murphy - "The Voice"



heard all over the nation. His first stop is Howard University, and if things continue to go the way they have been going for him, it surely will not be the last stop.

**On Jae:** "Anytime he touches a mic, people listen, which is all the time. He is the most prominent club host on campus and he is one of the few students who has over 1,000 followers on Twitter." - Domenio Smith

Whether it's on the mic or on Twitter, Jae Murphy demands attention by the power of his charismatic voice. Any student who participates in the Howard social life - on- or off-campus - knows the name "Jae Murphy." From hosting Homecoming events to receiving birthday shout-outs on air from local radio personalities, he is the epitome of an emcee on his grind to making his voice

## Erica Lindsay - "The Expansion"



most difficult role as a leader because you have to be motivated by something other than pay. Erica Jai is unpaid as the student coordinator of Alternative Spring Break and so are the people she has to motivate. Ribeau said when asking for people to give up their spring break, you really have to connect with their hearts to keep them motivated.

According to Dr. Paula Whetsel-Ribeau, Erica Jai Lindsay is exceptional and easily belongs in the top 24. Anybody who works with volunteers has a very difficult time because it takes exceptional leadership skills to get people to follow you. Erica has hundreds of people following her as volunteers who put their complete faith in her capabilities as they travel to new states. Ribeau said it is the

## Kendall Isadore - "The Model"



ting the stage ablaze playing popular song on her violin.

**On Kendall:** "One of the biggest thing I would say about her is that she is a leader by example. She also works well under pressure and she has a royal heir about herself, but she still remains to stay humble." - 2009 Miss COAS Adrian Pruett

Becoming the first Miss HBCU at Howard University, senior Kendall Isadore has made her mark - especially with students looking for a future in campus pageantry. Serving as Miss Howard University for two years, she not only exudes talent, but good-character and tenacity through her will to keep reinventing herself. Reinvention does not only apply to her personality. Isadore is known for setting



BY JESSICA LEWIS & TAHIRAH HAIRSTON  
Hilltop Staff

In 1924, Zora Neale Hurston and Eugene King co-founded *The Hilltop*. Our founders were nothing short of amazing and have been recorded in the history books for their contributions to society, which started right here at Howard.

Everyday, *The Hilltop* records the history of Howard University and captures the legacy of the students in it. This year, we've decided to do a little more and honor the students who help strengthen Howard's legacy daily.

This is the Hilltop 24 list.

This list was created to honor the legacy of some of the most influential students on campus. You may not agree with every person on this list and that is okay, but please do not diminish the contributions of your fellow Bison. For some months now, Hilltop staff members have debated about who should be on the list and the reasons for such.

The list is a compilation of people nominated by staff members and other students. For weeks last semester, we placed Hilltop ads, tweeted, blogged and put on our [TheHilltopOnline.com](http://TheHilltopOnline.com) that people could nominate their fellow students for this list. After nominations were collected, we had online polls and paper ballots for people to vote. More than 300 people voted with the paper ballots and hundreds of people voted online.

Influence is neither good nor bad; it is measured by your ability and willingness to affect change. The people that were chosen for The Hilltop's 24 most influential people list range from all different types of influence, but there is one solid similarity amongst them all - they will continue to make and leave a legacy at Howard University.

**want  
influence?  
come to  
the budget  
meeting  
sundays  
6 p.m.**



# Top's 24 Most Influential

## Musleehat Hamdu - "The Source"

Musleehat Hamdu has made a change in the way Howard students will dress in the future, not the current trends or designs, but by where the products that students wear everyday are sourced from. Last semester, she brought the Purchase For Africa campaign to Howard University through the African Business Association. Through PFA, ASA held a competition through which students could make their own t-shirts and they would be sold in the bookstore with the pricing for the materials from Africa. The goal of Hamdu with PFA was to get the bookstore to source 20% of their materials for the clothing made from Africa. She wants Howard University to be the first step, with other schools following in the future. She has promoted awareness about the sourcing and textile industry in the clothing that Howard students wear everyday.

## Agzja Carey - "The Solution"



Helping youth and preventing violence, senior Agzja Carey started her grass roots organization Street BidNaz in Oakland, Calif. and after its success, brought it to Washington in early 2009. Since then, Street BidNaz has become an official Howard University organization that students are able to join.

**On Agzja:** "She's really passionate about the betterment of black people and she is doing it now, while we're in school. She under promises and over-delivers." - Ojirese Momah

## Nnamdi Anozie - "The Trusted One"

When Nnamdi Anozie ran for undergraduate trustee he gave students more than a taste of Red Bull and a campaign handbill, he gave them the comfort that they could trust him to fight for their needs in the board room when they are most important needs. He comes off with a nature of approachability, but also the professionalism and confidence that students need to get their voice heard in the boardroom.



## Joshua Taborn - "The Cool Kid"

Love him or hate him, Joshua Taborn is the founder of the GDUBB, making it much more than a CarverStep team for Howard University's Res-Fest but an outlet for freshman students both boys and girls to become apart of. Making his mark on campus for not following the "norm" and bringing something new and out of the box to The Yard.

**On Joshua:** "Honestly, I would say he likes to help people and make changes in their life, especially freshman. He likes to help them matriculate through college and help them succeed." - senior sports management major Jazmin Hammond

## Bryan Smart - "The People"



Some people's accomplishments cannot readily be defined; they just are. Senior political science major Bryan Smart has a presence, a certain aura about him that made people put purpose into perspective and gravitate towards his swag. Smart, however, is more than just a personality. He created the position of vice-president of fine arts in the College of Arts and Sciences student council, started the Fine Arts Benefit Concert, and much more. Whether advocating or relaxing, he is an all-around people person.

**On Bryan:** "Smart is influential because of the kind of leader he is. It is rare to find a leader so passionate and genuine, and those traits set him apart. He just got that Southern swag." - Jerome Joseph

## Jerome Joseph - "Self-Made Man"



According to HUSA President Bryan Smart, outside of his position as Howard University Student Association vice-president, senior biology major Jerome Joseph is a family man. He truly takes care of his own. One way Joseph has accomplished this feat is to start a scholarship fund with the scholarship money he has received. The fund is for students in his hometown aspiring to go to college and major in the sciences just as he did when he was in high school. Joseph works daily to ensure that students on campus are incorporated into the bigger picture of Howard University, all while he works to ensure that people have the opportunity to see the big picture of college.

**On Jerome:** "He's the epitome of a self-made man." - Bryan Smart

## Victoria Fortune - "The Giver"



Nearly a week after the devastating 7.0 earthquake drastically changed the lives of Haitians and sprung people across the world to make moves to find relief, sophomore Victoria Fortune made her own moves. With gumption, she became the leading hands behind the "Hands On Haiti" benefit concert where 1,500 students and other members of the community filled Cramton Auditorium, donating over \$15,000 for the victims of the natural disaster.

**On Victoria:** "She's my mentee. Even as a freshman, she was trying to get involved not just for the titles, but because of the things they meant to people. If she looked in the mirror, she could say that she left Howard in a better place." - Avery Green

## Marcus Ware - "The Graduate"



From serving as the 47th Howard University Student Association president to becoming the first year Law School president, Marcus Ware has always been heavily involved in student government and continues to serve as a student leader and student mentor for Howard students seeking positions of leadership. He continues to serve the student body with his leadership and knowledge.

**On Marcus:** "Marcus has a really unique ability to connect with people whether it's in HUSA or just interacting with people. He lowers your defenses and you see that he is a really genuine person. It's easy to be influenced by someone who has a genuine interest in your success. The Marcus you see is what you get." - Will Roberts

## Clifton Ross III - "The Gospel"



His influence is through music, gospel music that is. Using his talent for music, Clifton Ross III was a contestant on Black Entertainment Television's reality competition show Sunday's Best, where he competed amongst other talented singers across the nation. Although Ross didn't win the title of "Sunday's Best," he continues to use his musical talent and dedication to God to lead the Howard Gospel Choir whenever they grace the stage whether it be Howard students at Chapel or in front of an audience in another country.

at Chapel or in front of an audience in another country.

## Jalil Muhammad - "The Rebirth"



Earlier last semester, the Nation of Islam Student Association (NOISA) made The Hilltop front page when they once again became an active organization on campus. It had been decades since NOISA had been recognized on campus, and behind their return was Brother Jalil Muhammad. Many that meet Muhammad comment on his calm demeanor and articulate speech because he truly puts thought behind everything that he does. A history major, Muhammad tries to stay in tune with the consciousness of African people.

**On Jalil:** Whether you agree with his teachings or not, he's unapologetic about his love for Black people as a whole. - James Morgan

## Branden Bufford - "The One"



Shasta Blanton said, "Not to read off his resume" but Branden Bufford has a starting position on the football team, a competitive GPA, and represents Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. to the fullest. Blanton said he does what it takes numerous people to do all by himself. Outside of the obvious, Bufford played an instrumental role in the success of Alternative Spring Break (ASB) Detroit 2009. Unlike many people who chose to go on ASB, Bufford chose to take his skills and go back home to make home better. He went back home this summer to work with those kids he worked with during ASB and attended their graduation. According to Blanton, no one could honestly deny the fact that he is influential.

## Victoria Kirby - "The Visionary"



Even after graduating from Howard the memories of the accomplishments and impact that Victoria Kirby had at Howard University still lingers and influences the mindset of many leaders in student government. From starting the Visionary Leadership Committee while she was undergraduate trustee to being known as transparent to the student body, Kirby without a doubt has influence. Now as a graduate student she serves as Ribean's graduate student assistant while still keeping up her duty and natural instinct to serve the students of Howard University and her community. Kirby stands as a model for strong black women as she is not afraid to speak her mind and make change.

## Tyler Pride - "The Rhythm"



Tyler Pride was The Rhythm that held together The Pulse for one of the best homecoming Howard University has seen. He brought back the spirit and excitement that was missing from the student body for one of Howard's most anticipated events. He brought back the old Poetry Concert and even added new events such as the International Showcase. Serving as homecoming chair, Pride was the glue that held the staff together and The Rhythm will definitely be a tough one to live up to for any future Homecomings both for the work ethic and the creativity aspect.

## Kristopher Owens - "The Generation"



Twenty years after the 1989 protest, junior Kristopher Owens started a movement of his own. Fed up with administration about a week after the fall semester began, sending out a mass text message Owens led the student body in coming together to voice their opinions through a protest on Sept. 4, 2009.

**On Kristopher:** "He's one of the most creative people I've ever met. He doesn't think like most people, he thinks outside of the box. If he wants to do something outrageous like start a protest he always has firms facts to back it up. He's passionate, whatever he puts his mind to he'll do." - Alvin Staley



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## Gibbs Appointment as Athletic Director Surprises

Recently, Charles Gibbs was named Athletic Director (AD) at HU. The position became available when former AD Dwight Datcher resigned on Aug. 18, 2009.

Joseph Bell was named Interim AD. The university said it would conduct a national search for a permanent AD. However, the search didn't make it past Georgia Avenue, since Gibbs has been an HU faculty member for some time.

Being AD is a huge job. It requires a multitude of things that range from composing the schedules of every HU athletic team to booking hotels for teams when they are playing away games. Is Gibbs qualified to do the job?

Maybe. Does it seem strange that he's been appointed to the position? Definitely.

Although Gibbs boasts career highlights such as creating the student housing RSVP program, his experience doesn't seem to lend to the position of AD.

He may have played football while attending Howard, and served as an administrator for many years, but is he really going to change the athletic department?

This leads to the question as to why the national search was unsuccessful.

Is it because people feel that the position is not desirable since we are not an athletic powerhouse? Was it because of the lack of student/alumni support for the Athletic Department?

President Sidney Ribeau understands the significance of sports. At his prior job as President of Bowling Green University, he was a part of a committee that hired Urban Meyer to be the coach of their football team in 2001.

\* Fast forward to 2010

**Our View:**  
*We are cautiously optimistic Gibbs can transform HU athletics.*

and Meyer has become one of the greatest coaches in all of college football.

The Florida Gators won the national championship in 2006 and 2008.

Also, during Ribeau's tenure, a new athletic center was built. The weight room was stocked with \$150,000 worth of equipment.

Hopefully, Ribeau saw the same things in Gibbs that he saw when choosing Meyer to lead Bowling Green's football team.

Even though some

students may feel that Gibbs is unqualified to be AD, most of the student-athletes that *The Hilltop* spoke with thinks he will do a better job for the department than past ADs.

The power of sports is tremendous. Athletes such as Jackie Robinson, Jesse Owens and Doug Williams help tremendously with race relations in their respective sports. Sports has the power to transform lives.

Students should not just dismiss HU athletics, even though in most sports we don't have stellar records.

Think about how packed Greene Stadium is for Homecoming and the Hampton vs. Howard football games. Imagine if every game was like that.

When a school has a strong athletic program, it brings millions of dollars into the university.

With all the cutbacks and rising tuition, strong athletics can help ease the current financial crunch of our university. Evidence of this was seen in 2007-2008 when the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education revealed that the University of Texas athletic department had a revenue amount of \$120,288,370.

Imagine what HU could do with that money. Support Howard Athletics.

## Daily Sudoku

Directions:

Each row, each column and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

6	7		5		
		9	6	4	2
9	3	1	2		5
7	1				3
	3	4		2	1
9				7	5
6			9	8	1
1	9	4	3		3
		6		8	9

## Want to write for The Hilltop?

Come grab a story at our next budget meeting.

Sunday at 6 p.m. in the Howard Plaza Towers  
West  
P-Level

# THE HILLTOP

The Nation's Only Black Daily Collegiate Newspaper

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Now in its 85th year, *The Hilltop* is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of 7,000, *The Hilltop* is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of the *The Hilltop* Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

*The Hilltop* reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

## Perspective

*We, TOO, are America!*

I must begin this perspective by applauding and celebrating the powerful and articulately communicated State of the Union speech given by President Obama last night. I believe that this is probably the first time I have ever seen him stand as tall as he did with as tough a backbone as he had in that moment.

He stood up against partisan politics and against his detractors. His rhetorical assertions and non-verbal communication was purely genius. I honestly believe that this is probably his best speech, when considering his communicative prowess.

But one thing troubled me. When listening to his speech, I was reminded of a song by the late King of Pop, Michael Jackson.

The chorus of the song simply went, "All I want to say is that/They don't really care about us!"

I was reminded of this song because while listening to his speech, I really didn't hear anything that directly affected the plight of urban youth and the plight of Afro-Americans.

It truly makes me ask the question, "Am I still an American?"

Often, we hear, in reference to Obama's urban policy, "He's only one man.

He can't save the world overnight. We can't critique him. He's got a lot on his plate!" All of these statements are understandable, but when do we decide that enough is enough? Far too often, Afro-Americans settle for eating the scraps from the table of humanity, even while they are able to demand a full meal, comparable and equal to the meals of others.

We have settled for scraps when our children die at record numbers by guns purchased through gun show loopholes that our legislators purposely overlook.

We have settled for scraps when, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for Afro-Americans is 16.2 percent while corporations ship more and more jobs overseas and refuse to hire black people for the jobs they have in the United States.

We have settled for scraps when our President can tell the nation what he plans to do for everyone else, but when it comes to Afro-Americans, we are told to wait and to help ourselves.

With all due respect, Mr. President, we have been waiting for justice since 1619. When will Afro-Americans demand the rights due to them by the fact of their creation?

Now is the time. We need prophetic courage now more than ever. We cannot afford to sacrifice our prophetic obligations for the sake of political expediency. We have to demand equality. We have to demand justice. We have to demand equal access to the educational resources that will allow our children to compete in the global economy.

Our children deserve the best NOW. We do not have time for a trickle down political ideology that will serve the "middle-class" and make its way down to our people "by-and-by."

Let us sound the trumpet in Zion and declare to America, "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."

This is our obligation. This is our mission. This is our charge. This is our challenge. This is our calling. We, TOO, are America. Now let us act like it.

Melech Thomas, senior communication and culture major



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**Join Howard's oldest Afrocentric organization. Ubiquity Incorporated during our annual "Nguzo Saba" Week.**

**January 29th at 6p.m.- Freestyle Battle in Blackburn Digital Auditorium.**

**January 30th at 10am-UCAN Community Service. 1525 Newton Street NW, Washington, D 20010**

**February 1st at 6pm- OPEN HOUSE. Blackburn148/150**

**Alternative Spring Break 2010 Applications due Friday, January 29th by 6pm in the lower level of the Carnegie building. email questions to [huash2010@gmail.com](mailto:huash2010@gmail.com) Follow us: [twitter.com/huash2010](http://twitter.com/huash2010)**

**Friday: January 29, 2010 Extra! Extra! Read All about it: Formal Rush 7:25pm Lock Hall 105 Business Attire Local Coverage: Service and Fellowship with Zeta Phi Saturday, January 30, 2010 TBA**

HOWARD UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING STEERING COMMITTEE TREASURER APPLICATION: DUE FEBRUARY 1ST AT 10AM PLEASE PICK UP APPLICATIONS IN THE OFFICE OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES, SUITE 117 IN BLACKBURN.

Xi Chapter, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Presents: 2010 Informational Meeting Tuesday, February 2, 2010 College of Medicine Auditorium 7:11p.m. Business Attire "It is easy to be ordinary, it takes courage to excel, and excel we must!"



Friday 3 wings + french fries 12- 6pm \$4.00 Chicken + waffles 8-11pm \$3.00 J. Bell's Winghouse Euclid St. NW Washington, DC 20001 (202) 462-9464

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**IMPORTANT RSVP ANNOUNCEMENT**  
Housing Information for 2010-2011

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
You can pay your RSVP Deposit ONLINE!

Continuing Students seeking housing for the 2010-2011 academic year are required to participate in RSVP. Students who are validated for Spring 2010 will be able to make their Advanced Rent Payment on BISONWEB through February 5, 2010.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
All students with housing assignments for the 2010-2010 academic year MUST be validated prior to moving into the residence halls.

Please log on to [www.howard.edu/residencelife](http://www.howard.edu/residencelife) and download the "2010-2011 RSVP Informational Handbook."

**NOTE:** Your \$200 deposit does not guarantee you housing.

Follow us on [www.twitter.com/HUResLife](http://www.twitter.com/HUResLife)

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Continuing students who are recipients of the Presidential, Laureate, Capstone, Founders, Upward Bound and Hartford Scholarships do not have to submit a RSVP deposit, but must make an online selection.